

Appln. No. 09/312,073
Supplemental Amendment dated June 23, 2003
Reply to Office Action of January 22, 2003

REMARKS

This Supplemental Amendment is filed further to the Amendment submitted on May 22, 2003.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-39, 41-65, 67-73, 83-90, 92 and 93-113 were pending in this application. In order to simplify this application, claims 24-35, which were withdrawn from consideration, have been cancelled¹ without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein². No other changes have been made by this paper.

It is noted that claims 36-39, 41, 42, 48-57, 60, 62-65, 67, 68, 73, 87-90, 92 and 93 are allowed. Claims 11 (withdrawn), 15 (allowed), 36, 57, 58, 62, 87, 92, 94, 95 and 97 are independent.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place this application in condition for allowance and submit that the claims are in condition for allowance. If for any reason, however, the Examiner should deem that this application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below to resolve any outstanding issues prior to issuing a further Office Action.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee now or hereafter due in connection with the prosecution of this application to Deposit Account No. 19-4709.

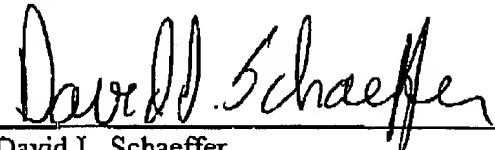
¹ This Amendment has been prepared utilizing the format prescribed in the Office of Patent Legal Administration - Pre-OG Notice entitled "Amendments in a Revised Format Now Permitted", signed by the Deputy Commissioner for Patent Examination Policy on January 31, 2003 and available on the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Website.

² These claims have been presented in copending Application No. 10/043,601, which is a division of the subject case.

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Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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